

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A messaging system comprising
a display device having control system and an input signal sensor, and
a remote control device operably couplable to the input signal sensor, the remote control device including a touch sensitive pad area and a signal transmitter,
wherein the control system causes messages contained in input signals received from the remote control device to be displayed on an display screen.
2. The message system of claim 1 wherein the control system is manipulatable to cause the messages to be sent to a system mailbox.
3. The message system of claim 1 wherein the control system is manipulatable to cause the messages to be erased.
4. The message system of claim 1 wherein the control system is manipulatable to cause the messages to be replied.
5. The message system of claim 1 wherein the display device is a television.
6. The message system of claim 1 wherein the control system includes a central processing unit (CPU) and an on screen display control coupled to the CPU and the display screen.
7. The message system of claim 6 wherein the CPU includes nonvolatile memory.
8. The message system of claim 7 further comprising messaging software stored in the nonvolatile memory and running on the CPU.

9. The message system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes a message button to activate the message system.

10. The message system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes a plurality of input mode keys.

11. The message system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes an input mode key toggleable between a plurality of input modes.

12. The message system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes a stylus.

13. The message system of claim 1 wherein the remote control includes a microprocessor.

14. The message system of claim 13 wherein the remote control includes nonvolatile memory.

15. The message system of claim 14 wherein the remote control includes character recognition software stored in the nonvolatile memory and running on the microprocessor.

16. A remote control device comprising
a microprocessor,
a touch sensitive pad area coupled to the microprocessor,
a signal transmitter coupled to the microprocessor,
nonvolatile memory coupled to the microprocessor, and
character recognition software store in the nonvolatile memory and running on the microprocessor.

17. The message system of claim 16 wherein the remote control includes a message button to activate a message system.

18. The message system of claim 16 wherein the remote control includes a plurality of input mode keys.

19. The message system of claim 16 wherein the remote control includes an input mode key toggleable between a plurality of input modes.

20. The message system of claim 16 wherein the remote control includes a stylus.